



DID SAVINGS MATERIALIZE? 2019 GENERAL SESSION APPROPRIATIONS

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

The Departments of Health, Human Services, and Workforce Services estimate potential savings of \$359,600 total funds across government and non-government entities from certain appropriations approved during the 2019 General Session. Of the projected savings, the agencies indicate that none of these savings can be removed from the state budget as savings.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

We recommend the Subcommittee formally request missing information via the motion below:

The Legislature intends that the Department of Health provide (1) what specific savings were generated, (2) who received the savings, and (3) what the funding sources were for these savings for the asthma home based case management funding in Medicaid as part of its reports submitted to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee in October 2021.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Background

The Departments of Health, Human Services, and Workforce Services provided reports in response to intent language passed by the Legislature in S.B. 3, *Appropriations Adjustments*, and S.B. 2, *New and Current Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act*, from the 2019 General Session:

The Legislature intends that the recipient of funding for [insert building block name] provide a report to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst that details the following: (1) what specific savings were generated, (2) who received the savings, and (3) what the funding sources were for these savings. For FY 2020 items, the recipient shall provide the report by August 31, 2020.

- [Help 24 More Children With Hearing Aids \(S.B. 2, Item 186\)](#)
- [Asthma Home-based Case Management for 70 Medicaid Children \(S.B. 2, Item 187\)](#)
- [Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund \(S.B. 3, Item 289\)](#)
- [Operation Rio Grande: Sober Living \(S.B. 2, Item 196\)](#)
- [Operation Rio Grande: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services \(S.B. 2, Item 196\)](#)
- [Children Reunifying in Residential Treatment Programs \(S.B. 2, Item 196\)](#)
- [Medication Assisted Treatment \(S.B. 2, Item 196\)](#)
- [CIRCLES Intergenerational Poverty Reduction Initiative \(S.B. 3, Item 214\)](#)

The items listed above link to the reports submitted by the agencies.

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The table below shows the savings claimed by agencies for each item:

Program	Funding	Federal ¹		State ¹			Other ¹		Individual
	Provided	Savings	Program	Savings	Program	\$ Removable	Savings	Area	Savings
Report on Savings from Hearing Aids for Children	\$191,600								
Asthma Home-based Case Management for 70 Medicaid Children	\$160,000	N/A		N/A			N/A		N/A
Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund (one-time funding)	\$50,000	(\$236,900)	Social Security				(\$766,400)	Health Care System	(\$105,000)
Operation Rio Grande: Sober Living	\$1,200,000								
Operation Rio Grande: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services	\$100,000								
Children Reunifying in Residential Treatment Programs	\$1,000,000								
Medication Assisted Treatment	\$750,000								
CIRCLES Intergenerational Poverty Reduction Initiative	\$51,000	(\$4,200)	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	(\$200)	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	\$0			(\$10,500)
		(\$2,800)	Nutritional Assistance (SNAP)						
Totals	\$3,502,600	(\$243,900)		(\$200)		\$0			(\$115,500)
	(\$359,600)	-974%	68%	0%		0%			32%

(1) Savings are listed under the level of government that is the administrator. The amounts may include state, federal, and other funding streams.

Why Can Savings Estimated by Agencies Not be Removed?

Below is an explanation from agencies or staff for why estimated savings cannot be removed from certain programs:

1. Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund

- Health: "These identified savings cannot be removed but the health care system does benefit from them... with the services that individuals receive as a result of the Fund, they are able to return to work, school, and their communities much sooner than if they did not have the additional services."

2. Hearing Aids for Children

- Health: "In order to accurately quantify the savings, the program would need to complete a research study, along with IRB [Institutional Review Board] approval to get medical and educational records of the CHAP [Children's Hearing Aid Program] recipients to then try and compare the data to a child not receiving early amplification (hearing aids)."

3. CIRCLES Intergenerational Poverty Reduction Initiative

- Any savings from changes in caseloads will be accounted for in Medicaid Census.

What Information is Still Pending?

The following programs will have actual savings data at future dates:

1. Asthma Home-based Case Management for 70 Medicaid Children
 - a. Health: “UDOH will submit another report to the legislature in October 2021 with UAHVP cost savings data.”
 - b. Contract services began in March 2020, but then were delayed a few more months during a transition to virtual home visits due to coronavirus restrictions.